

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-01 L-03 SP-02 NSCE-00
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DRAFTED BY EA/EP:AHEGBURG:SRP
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-----104580 242028Z /14

O 241921Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, KS, US

SUBJECT: HIRC PASSES KIM DONG JO RESOLUTION

REF: STATE 131535

1. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 24, THE HIRC, BY A UNANIMOUS
VOTE OF 31-0, REPORTED TO THE HOUSE FLOOR A RESOLUTION
URGING ROKG COOPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS
OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT IN OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM KIM
DONG JO UNDER OATH, AND STATING THAT SHOULD KIM REFUSE
TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION THE HOUSE WILL BE
PREPARED TO DENY OR REDUCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR NONMILITARY
ASSISTANCE FOR THE ROK. THERE IS A GENERAL CONSENSUS
WITHIN THE COMMITTEE THAT THE NONMILITARY APPROPRIATION
REFERS TO THE 56 MILLION DOLLAR PL-480 FUNDS FOR FY 79,
PLUS THREE MILLION DOLLARS FOR PEACE CORPS, WHICH WILL BE
CONSIDERED DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 12 WHEN THE FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION BILL IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED
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FOR FLOOR ACTION. TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION IS BEING SENT
BY SEPTTEL. THE COMPROMISE RESOLUTION ADOPTED REFLECTS
THE LABORS OF THE AD HOC DRAFTING GROUP ESTABLISHED BY
CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI ON MAY 23 AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT
THE COMMITTEE WAS SPLIT BETWEEN LANGUAGE PROPOSED BY
JAWORSKI AND THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP, AND REVISED LANGUAGE

PROPOSED BY CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI (REFTEL).

2. DURING COMMITTEE DISCUSSION OF THE COMPROMISE, REPRESENTATIVES HAMILTON, FINDLEY AND BUCHANAN, ALL MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING GROUP, SPOKE IN ITS FAVOR. BUCHANAN CHARACTERIZED IT AS A PLEA AND A SIGNAL TO AN ALLY, NOT A THREAT. FINDLEY DISAGREED MAINTAINING THAT THE RESOLUTION STILL CONTAINED A THREAT BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WAS THE ONLY POSSIBLE LANGUAGE WHICH THE ENTIRE COMMITTEE COULD SUPPORT. AS A PERSONAL VIEW, REP. DE LA GARZA URGED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO REMOVE THE CLOUD OF SUSPICION OVER CONGRESS IN GENERAL AND AS A MEANS TO CLEAR HIS NAME IN PARTICULAR. HE NOTED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE HAD RECEIVED MONEY BUT THAT IT HAD BEEN RETURNED. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED MONEY GIVEN TO HIS WIFE BY AMBASSADOR KIM'S WIFE DURING A HIRC TRIP TO KOREA.

3. PROCEDURALLY, COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAVE THREE DAYS TO RECORD THEIR VIEWS ON THE RESOLUTION WHICH, IF THIS SCHEDULE IS MAINTAINED, WILL RESULT IN FLOOR ACTION ON MAY 31 AT THE EARLIEST. HIRC STAFFERS EXPECT ADHERENCE TO THIS SCHEDULE ALTHOUGH THE LEADERSHIP HAS NOT YET BEEN CONSULTED ON TIMING. THE SIX ABSENT MEMBERS WERE GIVEN A FEW ADDITIONAL HOURS TO RECORD THEIR VOTES. THEY WERE CONTACTED AND THE FINAL TALLY IS 37-0.
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4. FOLLOWING THE COMMITTEE ACTION BOTH CHAIRMAN ZABLOCKI AND PETER WHITE OF THE JAWORSKI STAFF GAVE HALLWAY PRESS CONFERENCES. IN SPITE OF REPEATED QUESTIONS, ZABLOCKI REFUSED TO COMMIT HIMSELF AS TO WHAT COURSE OF ACTION HE WOULD SUPPORT AS WELL AS WHAT THE HOUSE MIGHT DO SHOULD THE ROK FAIL TO COOPERATE BEFORE THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATION BILL REACHES THE FLOOR. HE STATED THAT HOUSE ACTION WOULD DEPEND ON THE SITUATION AT THAT TIME NOTING THAT AMBASSADOR KIM NEED NOT HAVE TESTIFIED BY THEN BUT ONLY THAT ACCEPTABLE ARRANGEMENTS BE WORKED OUT. ZABLOCKI STATED THAT HE HOPED THAT KIM WOULD COME FORWARD. SHOULD THE ROK FLATLY REFUSE TO COOPERATE, ZABLOCKI SAID ONLY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CROSS THAT BRIDGE WHEN HE CAME TO IT.

5. IN PREPARED REMARKS DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, WHITE CLAIMED THAT SINCE THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAD BEEN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN DERAILING THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION, HE HOPED THAT THE DOS WOULD REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN KIM'S TESTIMONY. HE CHARACTERIZED THE RESOLUTION AS A STRONG ONE BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS

NOT THE FINAL WORD FROM CONGRESS. HE UNDERLINED THE

IMPORTANCE OF TIMING, NOTING THAT THE APPROPRIATION
BILLS ARE SCHEDULED FOR FLOOR ACTION IN EARLY JUNE.
HE MILDLY CHIDED THE HIRC FOR NOT TAKING A FINAL
DECISION ON THE AID QUESTION AND HINTED THAT SOME
CONSIDERATION MIGHT BE GIVEN TO ATTEMPTING TO STRENGTHEN
THE RESOLUTION EITHER ON OR BEFORE IT REACHES THE FLOOR,
SHOULD THERE BE INDICATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR STRONGER
LANGUAGE. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE UNANIMOUS COMMITTEE
VOTE AND HOUSE RULES, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THERE WILL BE
EFFORTS TO CHANGE THE RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM THE
COMMITTEE. END COMMENT. WHITE ALSO SAID THAT IN LIGHT
OF THE LEADERSHIP SUPPORT FOR THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION
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HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT SHOULD THE ROK FAIL TO COOPERATE,
FURTHER HOUSE ACTION IS ASSURED.

6. COMMENT: IF ASKED, EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT THE
DOS VIEWS THE RESOLUTION AS CONTRARY TO PROVISIONS
OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. THE HIRC AND THE HOUSE
LEADERSHIP ARE AWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION. AT
THE SAME TIME YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WE EXPECT THE
RESOLUTION TO PASS THE HOUSE AND THAT IT DOES REFLECT
HOUSE CONCERNS OVER THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN BRINGING
THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION TO A CONCLUSION. FYI:
DEPARTMENT OFFICERS DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN EITHER
DRAFTING OR NEGOTIATING THE COMPROMISED LANGUAGE
ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE. END COMMENT.

CHRISTOPHER

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